

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1498 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th DECEMBER, 2021

SHORTAGE OF CONTAINERS

1498(H). SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that exporters in India are also facing problems due to shortage of containers around the globe; and
- (b) if so, whether any action plan or scheme has been prepared by Government to allay the problem of containers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a) & (b): The government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to augment container availability. The efforts are spearheaded by an inter disciplinary task force which consists of representatives from the Logistics Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Railways, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and stakeholders like the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Container Shipping Lines Association (CSLA), etc. The task force after considerable stakeholder consultation, is taking coordinated action on identified tracks including pressing additional shipping/container capacity into service including enhanced import of empty containers by shipping lines to the country, improved operational planning by facilitating close coordination between exporters and shipping lines, release of abandoned/detained /seized containers, increasing duty free stay of containers, freight discounts for empty repositioning by Railways, transport and marketing assistance for select commodities, measures to improve the turnaround times of containers through tracking and monitoring of dwell times so as to effectively enhance availability of containers, seeking out possible ways to promote use of bulk/break-bulk movement by exporters as compared to containerised movement wherever feasible, etc .
